

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~OLL/LD  
INCOMING

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PRIORITY

FRP: , 2, 3, , , ,

2-4 25X17

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 TOR: 181930Z DEC 84

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PP RUEAIIB  
 ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
 UTS0791  
 PP RUEHC RUEHDD  
 DE RUEHLD #7581 3531918  
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
 P 181918Z DEC 84  
 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5646  
 INFO RUEHDD/NATO COLLECTIVE  
 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8738  
 ZEN/AMCONSUL BELFAST POUCH  
 ZEN/AMCONSUL EDINBURGH POUCH  
 BT  
 C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 27581

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: UK, EIND, ELAB, PGDV  
 SUBJECT: ENERGY SECRETARY WALKER ON THE MINERS'  
 STRIKE

25X1

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. A CONFIDENT PETER WALKER BRIEFED THE AMBASSADOR AND SENATOR EAGLETON DECEMBER 17 ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MINERS' STRIKE, INCLUDING WALKER'S DECEMBER 14 MEETING WITH TUC REPRESENTATIVES.
3. WALKER SAID HE HAD TOLD THE TUC THAT NOT ONE OF THE SEVEN UNIONS REPRESENTED IN THE ROOM HAD EVER HAD AN OFFER AS GENEROUS AS THE ONE ON THE TABLE FOR THE MINERS, WITH ITS GOOD WAGE DEAL AND PROVISIONS FOR REDUNDANCIES. NO ONE, HE EMPHASIZED, HAD DISAGREED WITH HIM, AND HE EXPECTED THE TUC WOULD CONTINUE ITS HANDS-OFF APPROACH TO THE STRIKE.
4. SCARGILL, WALKER SAID, WAS BEING VERY HEAVILY FINANCED BY THE SOVIETS, RECEIVING TWO MILLION POUNDS TWO WEEKS AGO. HMG KNOWS THE SOVIETS ARE THE MAIN SOURCE OF NUM FINANCES, BUT IT IS HARD TO SAY EXACTLY HOW THE CASH IS FUNNELED THROUGH THE VARIOUS SOVIET BANKS AND COMPANIES IN LONDON. SCARGILL'S STRIKERS ARE PAID TEN POUNDS A DAY, AND THE NUM HAS BROKEN ALL TUC GUIDELINES ON PICKETING. VIOLENCE IS THE ONLY MEANS SCARGILL HAS OF KEEPING MEN OFF THE JOB. WITHOUT THAT FEAR, HMG IS SURE THAT MANY MORE MINERS WOULD BE AT WORK.
5. SPECULATION ABOUT COAL BOARD CHAIRMAN MCGREGOR AS AN OBSTACLE TO A SETTLEMENT WAS BESIDE THE POINT, SAID WALKER. MCGREGOR IS AN EASY TARGET -- 72 YEARS OLD, AN AMERICAN, WITH A BACKGROUND IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY. BUT THE FACT IS THAT SCARGILL WANTS A CONFLICT. ONE HAD ONLY TO

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READ HIS MANY PRONOUNCEMENTS OVER THE YEARS.  
SCARGILL BELIEVES THAT THE WORKING CLASS CAN NEVER  
OBTAIN ITS RIGHT TO RULE THROUGH DEMOCRATIC ACTION  
BUT ONLY BY USING ITS INDUSTRIAL MIGHT THROUGH  
CONFLICT.

6. THE KEY FACT FOR THE GOVERNMENT IS THAT THE TUC  
IS NOT SUPPORTING THE STRIKE. OTHER UNIONS -- THE  
ELECTRICIANS, THE TRANSPORT WORKERS -- COULD ALL  
HAVE JOINED IN BUT HAVE NOT, WALKER SAID,  
BECAUSE THEY KNOW THE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED THE  
MINERS A SUPER DEAL. THE RESULT IS THAT COAL IS  
MOVING AT RECORD LEVELS, WITH MORE STOCKS IN  
POWER STATIONS NOW THAN IN AUGUST, WHILE,  
ACROSS THE PICKET LINES, THE RETURN TO WORK  
CONTINUES -- FOUR TO FIVE HUNDRED LAST WEEK ALONE.

7. COMMENT: THE FACT OF SOVIET FINANCIAL SUPPORT  
FOR THE NUM IS WELL KNOWN, BUT THE MAGNITUDE  
CITED BY WALKER IS STRIKING.

PRICE

END OF MESSAGE

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